

SPAWN®



163



DIGITAL
EDITION

SPAWN.COM

TODD MCFARLANE AND
IMAGE COMICS PRESENT

STORY
DAVID HINE

PENCILS
PHILIP TAN
RODEL NOORA

INKS
DANNY MIKI
ALLEN MARTINEZ
RYAN WINN
CRIME LAB STUDIOS

LETTERING
TOM ORZECZOWSKI

COLOR
BRIAN HABERLIN
ANDY TROY

PRODUCTION
JAY FOTOS

COVER
GREG CAPULLO

MANAGING EDITORS
JENNIFER CASSIDY
TYLER JEFFERS

SPAWN EDITORS
BRIAN HABERLIN
TODD MCFARLANE

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
OF SPAWN.COM
TYLER JEFFERS

MANAGER OF
INT'L. PUBLISHING
FOR TMP
SUZY THOMAS

PUBLISHER FOR
IMAGE COMICS
ERIC STEPHENSON

SPAWN CREATED BY
TODD MCFARLANE

DEDICATED TO
HUGO PRATT

SPAWN 162 SUMMARY:


Spawn defeats God's champion Zera only to be too late to save his beloved Granny Blake – who dies in his arms. Then when attacked by the armies of both Heaven and Hell combined, he taps into the power given him by the Mother of all Creation and destroys both sides and in the process all life on Earth.




TODD MCFARLANE
PRODUCTIONS
SPAWN.COM



Spawn #163, Digital Edition. Published by IMAGE COMICS, 1942 University Ave. Berkeley, CA 94704. Spawn, its logo and its symbol are registered trademarks © 2006 Todd McFarlane Productions, Inc. All other related characters are TM and © 2006 Todd McFarlane Productions, Inc. All rights reserved. The characters, events and stories in this publication are entirely fictional. With exception of artwork used for review purposes, none of the contents of this publication may be reprinted without the permission of Todd McFarlane Productions, Inc.




*"And so it was
that in the last
days, the Four
Horsemen strode
the Earth."*



*"No corner of the
globe escaped
their destruction.
Neither the
greatest of cities..."*



*"...nor the
lowliest
village..."*



*"...and as the people died,
so did they rise again, their
bodies restored to a grotesque
semblance of life."*



"And then the horror truly began, for the resurrected bodies were transformed, taking on the aspects of demons and dark angels, the monstrous forms required by their ancient masters.

"Then every one of these new-made warriors rose up and slouched in their billions towards the Final Battle.

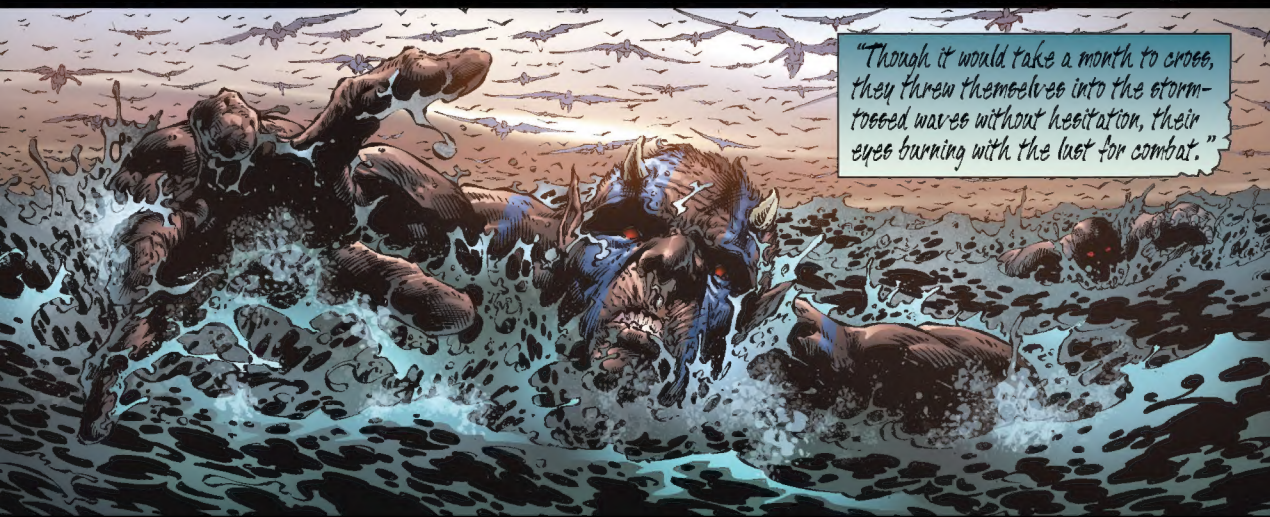
"From the tiniest inhabited Pacific atoll and from the wastelands of Siberia they came.

"Those with wings took to the air, turning the skies to night with their shadowy flights.

"The rest walked, never tiring, never stopping for rest or sustenance.

"Nothing stopped them or slowed their passage. They marched through rain and sandstorm, across mountain and desert.

"Even the greatest ocean was no barrier to them.



"Though it would take a month to cross, they threw themselves into the storm-tossed waves without hesitation, their eyes burning with the lust for combat."

"Their destination was the former city of Los Angeles, ripped from the North American landmass at the behest of Mammon to form an island battleground."

"Here the two armies met to do battle for their liege lords God and Satan, the two brothers now trapped in the frail human bodies of the twins Jake and Katie, born of the woman Wanda Blake."

"Their true names were Jehovah, Yahweh, the Mighty God, Creator of all Mankind..."

"...and Satan, Lucifer, Lord of Light and Master of Chaos."

"For millennia they had planned this war known as Armageddon, when their hatred for one another would find release."

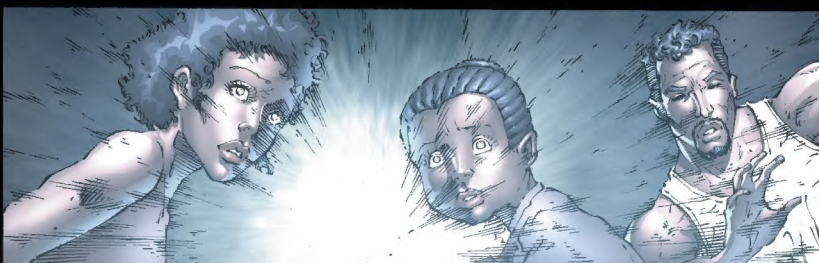
"But now their plans were undone by a third force, the Hellspace Al Simmons, who had died twice over and was risen with power greater than any man had known. The power of a God."

"Faced with the combined forces of the two armies, Spawn unleashed his power and the armies fell before him."

"There was the sound of a rushing wind and a blinding white light spread out across the world..."



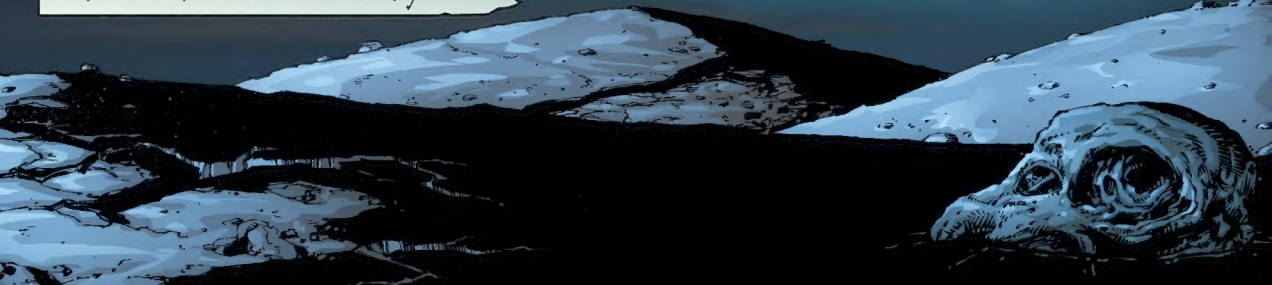
"The light burned without heat, obliterating all it touched..."



"...and the light consumed the Earth..."

"...and the world was laid waste. Not one living thing remained, neither man nor beast. Not one bird, or insect, nor even one blade of grass."

"The Earth was without life."



"Then the
fury of God
and Satan
knew no
limits..."

RRRRRAAAAAHH!!!

I DON'T
BELIEVE THIS!
OUR ARMIES
ARE GONE.

ALL OF
THEM...

LOOK
AT THE
TREACHEROUS
BASTARD,
WEEPING LIKE
A BABY.

HAH-
UH-
HAH

I'LL
GIVE HIM
SOMETHING
TO CRY
ABOUT!

NO, WAIT.
HE ISN'T
CRYING.

HA HA
HA-
HA-
HAA

YOU
THINK
THIS IS
FUNNY YOU
DICKLESS
GIMP?! YOU
SAID YOU
WANTED TO
SAVE YOUR
PRECIOUS
HUMAN
RACE.

IS THIS
HOW YOU
SAVE
THEM?!


THEY WERE
ALREADY DEAD.
NOTHING BUT
EMPTY SHELLS,
NO BETTER THAN
ZOMBIES.

THAT'S
WHAT I
SAVED
THEM FROM.

YOU WANT
TO KNOW WHY I'M
LAUGHING?

YOU
PLANNED
THIS FOR
THOUSANDS
OF
YEARS.

YOU CREATED THE
HUMAN RACE. BRED
US TO BE CANNON
FODDER FOR YOUR
APOCALYPSE.



WHAT WAS
THE PLAN? ONE
THOUSAND YEARS
OF WAR?

I TOOK IT
ALL AWAY FROM
YOU! THAT'S WHAT'S
FUNNY.

IT'S ALL A BIG
JOKE AND I JUST
DELIVERED THE
PUNCH LINE.




HOW DID
YOU DO
THIS?!!

YOU'RE
JUST A
HELL-
SPAWN!

YOU'RE
NOTHING!

HE'S
WHAT I
MADE
HIM.



AL SIMMONS
HAS EARNED
THIS POWER.
THROUGH HIS
DEATH AND
SUFFERING HE
HAS PROVEN
HIMSELF
WORTHY.



YOU! YOU
BITCH!!

YOU
CAN'T DO
THIS!

HE'S A MAN.
I MADE MANKIND,
NOT YOU.

HE'S
MINE!!



I DO
WHAT I
WILL.



THERE'S
SOMETHING
YOU CAN
DO...

THEY
LOOK TOO
MUCH LIKE
WANDA IN THOSE
BODIES. THEY'RE
AN INSULT TO
THE HUMAN
RACE.

LET'S
SEE WHAT
THESE
SCUMBAGS
REALLY
LOOK
LIKE.

AS YOU
WISH. BUT
BE CAREFUL,
SPAWN. IF I
RESTORE THEIR
BODIES, I
RESTORE
EVERYTHING
ELSE.

THEIR
APPETITE FOR
DESTRUCTION
IS BEYOND
ANYTHING
YOU COULD
IMAGINE.

OH YES,
THAT IS **SO**
MUCH
BETTER!

NOW
SIMMONS,
YOU WILL SEE
THE POWER
AND THE
GLORY.



COME ON
LITTLE MAN, YOU
WANTED TO TAKE
ON GOD AND THE
DEVIL.

NOW'S
YOUR
CHANCE.

SO THAT
WE CAN BEAT
THE CRAP OUT
OF EACH OTHER
FOR ALL
ETERNITY?

I DON'T
THINK SO.

TAKE
A LOOK
AROUND, YOUR
ARMIES ARE
GONE.

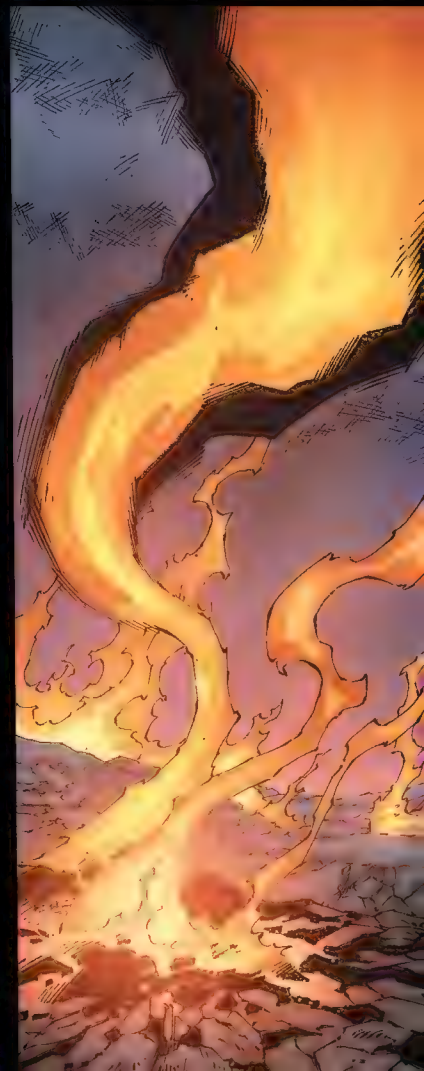
I'VE
ALREADY
WON.

DON'T
TURN YOUR
BACK ON
ME!!

OR
WHAT?
YOU THINK
I CARE
ANY MORE
WHAT
HAPPENS
TO ME?

COME
ON THEN,

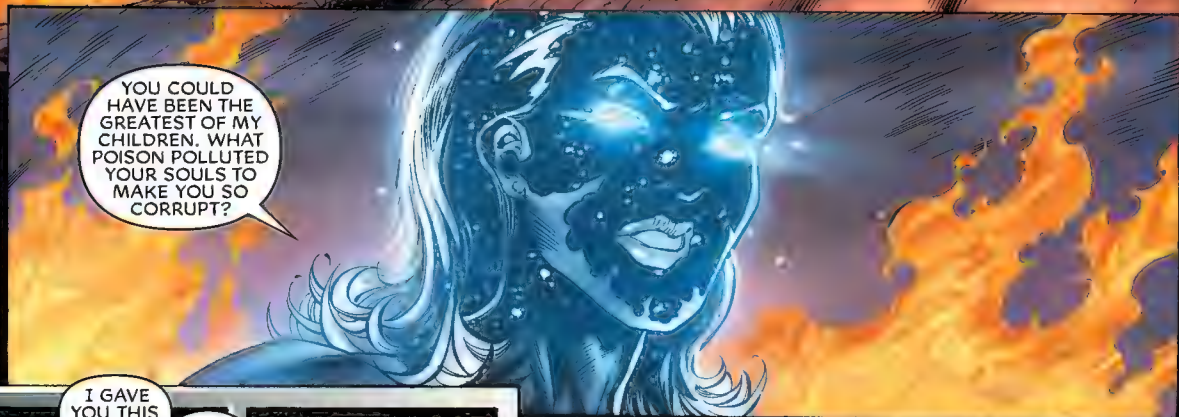
DO YOUR
WORST.





ARE YOU
CONTENT
NOW?

HE WAS
THE LAST OF
THE HUMAN
RACE.



YOU COULD
HAVE BEEN THE
GREATEST OF MY
CHILDREN. WHAT
POISON POLLUTED
YOUR SOULS TO
MAKE YOU SO
CORRUPT?



I GAVE
YOU THIS
WORLD.

NOW
I LEAVE
YOU WITH
WHAT YOU
HAVE
MADE OF
IT.

I HOPE
YOU TAKE
PLEASURE
IN IT.



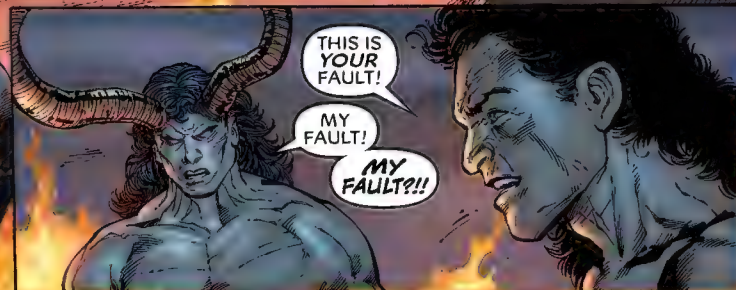
"For a brief moment their minds were clear and they saw the folly of their ancient feud..."

IS THIS WHAT WE HAVE COME TO...



BROTHER, PERHAPS WE SHOULD-

-THIS...



THIS IS YOUR FAULT!

MY FAULT!

MY FAULT?!!

"...and then the fog of madness descended once more."



HOW IS THIS MY FAULT?

TWO WORDS.

FREE WILL.

YOU GAVE THEM FREE WILL YOU MORON! YOU THINK THIS WOULD HAVE HAPPENED IF YOU NEVER DID THAT?



WITHOUT FREE WILL YOUR DOCILE LITTLE HUMANS WOULD STILL BE SUNNING THEMSELVES IN THE GARDEN OF EDEN.

THEY WOULDN'T EVEN HAVE GOTTEN AROUND TO BREEDING.

WITHOUT ME, ADAM WOULD STILL BE USING HIS WIENIE TO SWAT FLIES!

IF I DIDN'T GIVE THEM FREE WILL THERE WOULD HAVE BEEN NO ATTILA THE HUN, NO GENGHIS KHAN, NO WAR, NO GENOCIDE...

NO HELLSPAWN!!



EXACTLY.
NO
HELLSPAWN.



MORON.

THE
HELL
WITH
YOU!!

I DON'T
NEED AN
ARMY TO WHIP
YOUR ASS!



"Thus the final battle began again. There were no armies, no demons or fire-breathing dragons, no flights of angels."



"Just two great immortals. Between them they had the power to create a world teeming with life and beauty. They could have created wonders beyond imagining."

"Instead they were blind to everything but their hatred for one another."

"So they fought, tearing down mountains, rending and blasting the barren surface of the land as they stormed back and forth across the scarred dead husk of the planet they had named The Earth."

"Thus did Armageddon come to pass."

AND SO IT GOES.

WILL THEY EVER STOP?

WHO KNOWS? NEITHER CAN DEFEAT THE OTHER. THEY ARE ALL-POWERFUL AND IMMORTAL. THERE CAN BE NO VICTORY.

I ALLOW ALL MY CHILDREN TO MAKE THEIR OWN DESTINY. I HAVE GIVEN THEM ALL THE GUIDANCE I CAN BUT I FEAR THEY ARE BEYOND HOPE.

LIKE THE WORM THAT EATS ITS OWN TAIL THEY ARE TRAPPED IN A CYCLE OF ENDLESS SELF-DESTRUCTION.



YOU
THOUGH,
MY HELL-
SPAWN...

YOU HAVE
WON A GREAT
VICTORY.



IT
DOESN'T
FEEL LIKE
IT.

DID I KILL
EVERYTHING?
DID I KILL
TERRY?
CYAN?

DID I KILL
WANDA?



IT IS AS
I TOLD YOU. I
WITHDREW MY
PROTECTION
FROM THEM.

THEY
ARE ALL
DEAD.



IF
YOU'VE
LIED TO
ME...

I
DON'T
LIE.

I DON'T
ALWAYS TELL
THE WHOLE
TRUTH, BUT I
DON'T LIE.

EVERYTHING
THAT DIES WILL
BE RE-BORN.




HOW
DO I DO
IT?

HOW
DO I
BRING
THEM
BACK?

YOU MUST
CLOSE YOUR EYES TO
THIS DEAD WORLD.
BANISH IT FROM YOUR
MIND.

THEN
OPEN
YOURSELF
TO ME.



I AM CREATION. I AM
EVERYTHING THAT EVER
WAS OR WILL BE.

TAKE BACK
WHAT YOU
DESTROYED.
MAKE IT WHOLE
AGAIN.

YOU HAVE
THE WILL, SPAWN.
YOU HAVE THE
POWER.

IF YOUR
DESIRE IS GREAT
ENOUGH, IT WILL
BE SO...

*"Then came
the time of
rebirth."*



"The dark clouds lifted and every thing that was dead awakened as if from a deep sleep."



"Again a great light filled the sky and there was no night anywhere on the Earth."



"The diseased were healed, disasters were undone, the world was made whole, all evils banished."



"But the memory of those terrible days of Apocalypse remained with them. No one would ever forget the horror of the End of Days when the Horsemen rode the Earth."



"For it was from that dark despair that hope was born."

"And the world was at peace..."

BAKERSFIELD,
CALIFORNIA.

GRANNY?

GRANNY!

WAS IT
ALL A
DREAM?

PLEASE TELL
ME I'VE BEEN
DREAMING.

NO MOMMY.
IT HAPPENED.

THE SAD
MAN SAVED
US, DIDN'T HE
GRANNY?

YES,
HONEY.

IT WAS
AL SAVED
US ALL.




SO
WHERE ARE
THEY NOW,
THE TERRIBLE
TWINS?

AS
NEAR AND
AS FAR
AWAY AS A
MOMENT
PAST.



IS IT TOO
MUCH TO ASK
FOR ONE
STRAIGHT
ANSWER?




AS LONG AS THEY'RE
BLINDED BY HATE, AS LONG AS
THEY BELIEVE THAT YOU AND THE
REST OF THE HUMAN RACE HAVE
PERISHED, THEN THEY WILL REMAIN
IN THAT DEAD WORLD THEY'VE
MADE FOR THEMSELVES.



WHAT
HAPPENED TO
HEAVEN AND
HELL?

THEY
STILL EXIST,
BUT YOU ARE
THIS WORLD'S
CREATOR.
YOU MAKE
THE RULES
NOW.



IF YOU
WANT TO
CLOSE THE
PORTALS THAT
LINK HEAVEN AND
HELL TO EARTH,
YOU ONLY HAVE
TO SAY THE
WORDS.



THEN
I CLOSE
THEM!

FROM
NOW ON, NO
DEMON OR ANGEL
WILL EVER INTERFERE
WITH A SINGLE
HUMAN LIFE.



WHAT
WILL
YOU DO
NOW?

I HAVE LIVED
AS A MAN. I KNOW
YOUR DESIRES. THE
WILL TO POWER IS THE
STRONGEST OF ALL
MOTIVATIONS.

AND
YOU
HAVE THE
POWER
OF A
GOD.

THE LAST
THING THIS WORLD
NEEDS IS ANOTHER
GOD.

FROM
NOW ON THEY
CAN MAKE IT ON
THEIR OWN.



YOU WON'T
CHANGE
ANYTHING?

LIKE WHAT? BRING
ABOUT WORLD PEACE? END
GLOBAL WARMING? CURE
THE COMMON COLD?

WHERE WOULD IT
END? IF THERE'S ONE THING
I KNOW IT'S THAT THE MORE
YOU TRY TO CONTROL THINGS,
THE MORE CHAOS YOU
CREATE.

NO. IT'S
TIME FOR
MANKIND TO
GROW UP.
THEY CAN
FIND THEIR
OWN WAY.



STILL. THIS
WORLD IS YOUR
RESPONSIBILITY.

NO. I
DON'T
WANT ANY OF
THIS. I'M NOT
A GOD. I'M
NOT AN
ANGEL.

ALL I
WANT IS WHAT
I ALWAYS
WANTED.



I CAME
BACK FOR
WANDA. THAT'S
WHY I MADE THE
DEAL WITH
MALEBOLGIA.
THAT'S WHY I
BECAME A
HELLSPAWN.



ALL I EVER
WANTED WAS
TO HAVE MY
LIFE BACK.

SO YOU CAN
TAKE THIS AWAY.
THE WINGS, THE
POWER, IMMORTALITY.
I JUST WANT TO BE
AL SIMMONS.

YOU'VE BEEN
GONE A LONG
TIME. WANDA
HAS MOVED ON.
SHE HAS A NEW
FAMILY.



I'M THE
ONE WANDA
LOVES. SHE NEVER
STOPPED.

TERRY FILLED
THE GAP. BUT SHE
NEVER STOPPED
LOVING ME.

IT WILL HURT
TERRY. I KNOW THAT AND
I'M SORRY FOR HIM. BUT
WHATEVER HE FEELS WILL
NEVER BE ONE *THOUSANDTH*
OF WHAT I'VE BEEN
THROUGH.

CYAN
ALREADY THINKS
OF ME LIKE A
FATHER. THIS *WILL*
WORK.



I DESERVE
IT, DON'T I?

DO
YOU?



JUST
DO IT. GIVE
ME THIS *ONE*
THING.

VERY
WELL.





...AND
I'M GOING
HOME.

NEXT
ISSUE:
SPAWN 164





Tyrant
Lizard
King

EMPIRE